

HONORING NANCY STERN FOR
HER RETIREMENT FROM THE
EASTERN SHORE RURAL HEALTH
SYSTEM

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Nancy Stern upon her retirement from Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc.

For over 20 years, Nancy has led Rural Health as the center's Chief Executive Office. In her time as CEO and beyond, Nancy has exhibited extraordinary passion for the Eastern Shore community and has been a staunch advocate for Community Health Centers nationwide.

Nancy began her career as a health educator, originally working part-time as she raised her young family. She worked in health education for over a decade before taking the role of Director of Human Resources for Rural Health. After three years in this role and another two years as the Director Operations, Nancy was appointed as Rural Health's CEO where she has remained for the last 20 years.

Nancy has been a key figure in Rural Health's growth, modernization, and expansion to meet 21st century standards. Under Nancy's leadership, Rural Health added adult dental and behavior health care to better assist Eastern Shore residents. Nancy also oversaw the Eastville Community Health Center's construction as well as the expansion and replacement of the Onley and Atlantic Community Health Centers respectively. Additionally, she led Rural Health in acquiring a partnership with Kiwanis International for the Chincoteague Community Health Center. In her 20-year tenure, Rural Health's workforce expanded from 100 employees to 300 and increased its budget from \$6 million to \$29 million today.

Nancy's dedication to providing for the health and well being of the Eastern Shore community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize her leadership and the role she has played in making our community a better place. Coastal Virginia is a better place because of her efforts.

HONORING TOM BROWN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to congratulate Thomas Brown on his retirement and thank him for his many meaningful years of service to the Sixth Congressional District of Missouri.

Tom has been a crucial member of my team in the House of Representatives for fifteen years, and his impact on Missouri's Sixth Congressional District cannot be overstated. In 2005, Tom joined my team as Chief of Staff, and has since held multiple other titles, including District Director and Senior Advisor. Tom's wealth of knowledge about Missouri and the needs of the constituents in the Sixth Congressional District made him both an effective

leader in the office and an invaluable voice for the district. In the past fifteen years, Tom has made himself known as a true force to be reckoned with, using his wide network of relationships and his unmatched experience in the region to bring real change to Missourians.

Tom's dedication to the people of Missouri is in no way limited to his time on my staff. Before joining our team, Tom served as a Clay County Commissioner, Chairman of the Missouri Lottery Commission, and the Chairman of the Board at Saint Luke's North Hospital. Tom has also served on boards for the Mid-America Regional Council, Tri-County Mental Health, and Synergy Services. His tireless efforts on behalf of Missouri will be felt long after his time on staff comes to an end.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Tom Brown for his commitment to the Northland, Missouri's Congressional Sixth District, and the entire Show Me State. I am honored to have worked with him for the past 15 years and am honored to call him, and his family, my friends and neighbors.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF TOM VANKIRK

HON. CONOR LAMB

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Tom VanKirk, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at Highmark Health on December 31, 2020.

Mr. VanKirk joined Highmark Inc. in March 2012 following a 41-year career at Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney. In addition to overseeing the acquisition of West Penn Allegheny Hospital System and Jefferson Hospital as well as the formation of Highmark Health in 2013 and its affiliation with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of northeast Pennsylvania in 2015, he has managed the legal affairs of the company and the legal department, and serves on the company's leadership team. He was also instrumental in the formation of Highmark Health's strategic partnerships with Johns Hopkins Medicine and Penn State Health. Mr. VanKirk also serves as the secretary of the board of directors of Highmark Inc. and Highmark Health.

Prior to joining Highmark in 2012, Mr. VanKirk served as Chairman and CEO at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney from 2003 until 2009, and Chairman until 2012, where he provided strategic leadership, client relationship development and attorney recruitment. He also managed the merger of three major law firms into Buchanan. Mr. VanKirk served as COO for 18 years from 1985 to 2003 before becoming CEO at Buchanan Ingersoll. He was a corporate takeover and antitrust trial lawyer and corporate advisor to many Fortune 1,000 companies.

As a community leader, Mr. VanKirk is involved in many civic and non-profit initiatives throughout the Pittsburgh region. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, the Pennsylvania Economy League and Chaired the Pennsylvania Business Council Board. In addition, Mr. VanKirk is a trustee of the University of Pittsburgh, the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh, United Way, the Board of visitors of the PITT School of Social

Work, The Carnegie Museum, and on the board of Penn State Health.

Mr. VanKirk and his wife Bonnie have been involved in the founding of both the Hillman Cancer Center and the August Wilson Center, two vital Pittsburgh institutions. He is a graduate of two great Pennsylvania schools. Bucknell and Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

[From Penn State University Newswire]

According to a recent news article looking back on his life and contributions to our community, "When Mr. VanKirk, 1970, attended Penn State Dickinson Law five decades ago, it was a time of tremendous unrest. The civil rights movement and protests against the Vietnam War were peaking, and VanKirk felt drawn to the field of law."

Said Mr. VanKirk of this experience, "I think the law has always been a great place to make a meaningful and lasting impact on society."

On behalf of the constituents of Pennsylvania's 17th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Mr. VanKirk on his retirement and thank him for his tireless work to enhance the quality of life of our community.

HONORING JACQUIE SULLIVAN ON
HER RETIREMENT AS
COUNCILMEMBER ON THE
BAKERSFIELD CITY COUNCIL

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bakersfield's longest-serving City Councilmember, Jacquie Sullivan, a constituent and longtime friend. Years ago, I remember calling Jacquie to encourage her to run for City Council. Now as she prepares to retire, I am honored to recognize her legacy and thank her for 25 years of public service to the city of Bakersfield and Kern County.

Born in Bakersfield, Jacquie attended local public schools and later moved north, graduating from Tahoe Truckee High School. Soon after earning her high school diploma, she secured her real estate license and, while raising four children, entered the rental investment industry. In 1993, after the loss of her daughter Joyce, Jacquie, despite her soft-spoken nature, became one of our community's outspoken voices helping to change the stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS. She worked to educate the next generation, drive awareness of the disease, and advocated for more funding for treatments and prevention. Through her advocacy, Jacquie spoke at many Kern County school functions and helped raise thousands of dollars to provide better care for those afflicted with HIV/AIDS.

In 1995, Jacquie was elected to the Bakersfield City Council. As Councilmember for Ward Six, she worked with her colleagues to prioritize neighborhood safety, affordable family living, and promoting prosperity in her ward and across Bakersfield. During her tenure, she enhanced resident quality of life by streamlining building projects, introducing a city framework for emergency funding, and fostering economic growth opportunities for small businesses.

Jacquie's advocacy and legacy, however, is not confined just to the borders of Bakersfield,